

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

10 JULY 2018

1. Fly-tipping update

Hampshire's fly-tipping strategy is delivering results. Fly-tipping tonnage decreased by around 25% in East Hampshire in the year 2016/17, compared to the previous year. This reduction is predominantly down to successful partnership working with the Hampshire Constabulary, NFU, CPS, District Councils and Parishes. Also worth noting are the following:

- So far three joint night-time enforcement operations have been mounted. 230 vehicles have been stopped. Several drivers have been issued with fines. One person has been arrested and one vehicle was seized. These operations are having a strong deterrent effect.
- An Intelligence and Enforcement Working Group has been established and met for the first time on 27 April 2018. A Parish Council representative will feed back to and engage with HALC.
- A funding bid for covert CCTV cameras has been successful with £3,000 being awarded from the Rural Delivery Budget. HCC are holding the cameras centrally. A pilot project with the HCC Countryside Service is taking place currently in Yateley. If anyone knows a good location for covert camera action please email Gareth Roberts at gareth.roberts@hants.gov.uk

2. Grant to Sheet Scout Hut

I am pleased to report that my grant of £1,000 has now been received by the Sheet Scout Hut project. Jeff Graham has kindly sent me some photos of the work underway. It looks like the building work is proceeding well and I am looking forward to visiting the completed hut after the Summer.

3. Autism Ambassador scheme

After a full day of intensive training I am delighted to have qualified as an Autism Ambassador. The Autism Ambassador scheme is run by the Hampshire Autism Partnership Board with support from Hampshire County Council.

The role of an Autism Ambassador is to be a positive voice for people with autism, who are “differently abled” rather than disabled, and to raise awareness and understanding of autism amongst colleagues, friends and family so that we increase understanding of things a person with autism may find difficult or stressful.

Autism is a hidden condition which obscures its prevalence. Three in 100 people are thought to be living with autism whilst only one in 100 has a diagnosis. Many people on the autistic spectrum will struggle in social situations and may experience problems with relationships at home, school or work. All individuals are unique and autism can manifest in different ways. Most autistic people find processing information difficult and can be oversensitive to particular things such as smell, tastes, colour, sound and touch.

A key thing I took away from the training is that many autistic people can make a great contribution in the workplace, because they are often well organised, logical and have good attention to detail. However, in order to harness those talents it is often necessary for employers to make “reasonable adjustments”. The benefits of small changes can be enormous and they can enable people with autism to contribute to society and live more independently in the community.

If anyone is interested in undertaking Autism Ambassador training, please email Vanessa Cosby on admin@ascambassador.org.uk

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County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers